



Command Publication of the Tennessee Army National Guard

Tennessee Troops Going & Coming

*By SFC Randy Harris, Director of Public Affairs
Tennessee National Guard*

More than 3,500 Tennessee Army and Air National Guard members have been mobilized since September 2002, with nearly 2,900 of those coming from the Army side.

The rapid conclusion of the war with Iraq, left some of these soldiers without a deployment mission.

While some are currently serving proudly in Southwest Asia, many Tennessee troops have returned, or are returning home while others are preparing for follow-on missions at their MOB station.

“Charlie” Company, 46th Engineers from Paris, the 267th Military Police Company from Dickson and Lebanon, the 730th Quartermaster Company from Johnson City, the 1174th Transportation Company from Dresden and Newbern, the 1175th Transportation Company from Tullahoma and Brownsville, the 173rd Personnel Services Detachment from Nashville, the 130th RAOC from Tullahoma, the 775th Engineer Detachment from Jackson and the 168th Military Police Battalion from Lebanon are currently in the Southwest Asia theater.

MLRS crewmen from Chattanooga’s 1-181 Field Artillery Battalion (MLRS) returned home on May 12th after nearly 2 months at Fort Campbell awaiting orders to move. The 30th Finance Battalion, Smyrna arrived at their home station from Ft. Rucker on May 19th.

Since early September 2002, Memphis and Covington’s 3-115 Field Artillery Battalion soldiers are providing Force Protection at Ft. Bragg, Ft. Eustis, Ft. Story, Ft. Monroe, and Ft. Lee, while members of

Company B and C, 230th Engineers from Huntingdon, Lobelville, Camden and Martin are serving as additional security at Tennessee’s three Air National Guard Bases.

Nashville and Lewisburg’s 777th Maintenance Company have served since October providing maintenance support for Special Operations forces at Ft. Bragg and in Afghanistan.

Murfreesboro’s 269th Military Police Company provided force protection at Ft. Campbell beginning in December until relieved by their brother unit, the 268th MP Company from Ripley and Dyersburg, while the 776th Maintenance Company from Elizabethton and Mountain City were instrumental in getting the 101st ready to deploy.

Alcoa’s 1-146th Medical Company’s UH60Q’s are providing medical support for the U.S. Army Ranger School at Ft. Benning and Eglin AFB, as Company E, 107th Aviation at Ft. Stewart prepares for their movement to Kosovo.

Waverly and Erin’s 155th Engineer Company and the 568th Personnel Services Detachment from Nashville are scheduled to return home later next month, while the 568th’s parent unit, the 105th Personnel Services Battalion, the 212th Engineer Company from Dunlap, and the 771st Maintenance Company from Columbia and Hohenwald are awaiting possible mission orders.

Tennessee soldiers, whether serving here in the states on Force Protection missions, in Kuwait, Iraq, or Afghanistan in the War on Terrorism, or at deployment stations training and waiting for missions, are certainly upholding the “Volunteer” tradition forged by countless past generations of Tennesseans.

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Scams Target Military Families, E-Mail Users

Air Force Print News reports that the Internal Revenue Service continues to see isolated instances of new tax scams. Two new schemes target families of those serving in the armed forces and e mail users. In both schemes, people represent themselves as being from the IRS. The IRS warns consumers to beware of any variation of a scenario in which a telephone caller posing as an IRS employee tells a family member he is entitled to a \$4,000 refund because his relative is in the armed forces and then requests a credit card number to cover a \$42 fee for postage. The scammer provides an actual IRS toll free number as the call back number to make the call seem legitimate.

However, the scammer then charges unauthorized purchases with the victim's card. In another scheme, victims receive an e mail that appears to be from the IRS. The e mail contains links to a non IRS Internet Web page that asks for personal and financial information. Such information could be used to steal the respondent's identity and get access to sensitive financial data or accounts.

People who believe they are victims of one of these scams can contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration by calling the toll free fraud referral hotline at (800) 366-4484, faxing a complaint to (202) 927-7018 or writing to the TIGTA Hotline, P.O. Box 589, Ben Franklin Station, Washington, DC 20044-0589.

To learn more about protecting your credit against scams, see:

<http://www.military.com/credit/?ESRC=MR.nl>

THE VOLSTATEGUARD

is an authorized unofficial publication of the Tennessee Army National Guard. Published bimonthly, it is distributed free to units of the Tennessee Army National Guard and is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.tnmilitary.org>

Opinions and views expressed in this publication are those of the editors and do not necessarily reflect official views of the Tennessee National Guard unless so indicated.

Circulation 10,000 copies by email.

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74th Annual NGAT Conference Held in Nashville

*By: Maj. Ken Jones, Public Affairs Officer
Tennessee Air National Guard*

The 74th Annual National Guard Association of Tennessee conference was held at the Sheraton Hotel on February 21-23, 2003 in Nashville, Tenn.

Various committees met on February 21, 2003 to discuss the many issues at hand. One of the most important to members of the National Guard was the Resolutions Committee. Among those resolutions adopted were various helicopter procurements and upgrades, C-17 procurement increase and assignment to ANG units, mechanized/armored divisions self-propelled cannon artillery systems, additional Bradley Fighting Vehicles, improved target acquisition systems, crashworthy crew and troop seats for UH-60 and CH-47 helicopters, C-130 modernizations, countermeasures for KC-135s, Gore-Tex outerwear field gear, retirements system changes, and healthcare benefits. These are issues that are important to the National Guard in Tennessee and will be brought up to the national level.

The business session was held on February 22, 2003 beginning at 0830 hrs. Governor Phil Bredesen was the first guest speaker to approach the podium. He gave an inspiring speech and expressed his fondness for the Tenn. National Guard. In order to "put his money where his mouth is", the Governor signed an executive order that guarantees state employees that are deployed will not face financial hardship. The state will pay deployed employees the difference in pay from their military and state salaries.

Following the Governor, Representatives Lincoln Davis (D) 4th District, Marsha Blackburn (R) 7th District, Bart Gordon (D) 6th District, and Jim Cooper (D) 5th District gave supportive speeches. Key to their comments was the support given for issues having to do with health care for Guardsmen, a better retirement system, and their true best wishes for those who have and will deploy.

The Honorable Albert C. Zapanta, the Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board was the keynote

speaker for the conference. Zapanta is a true hero who has been awarded the Silver Star, five Bronze Stars for valor, the Purple Heart and thirty other awards during the Vietnam War. He was awarded the Joint Service Commendation medal for Desert Storm, Restore Hope and Restore Democracy.

He served as an enlisted soldier in 1964 and reached the rank of Sergeant in the 12th Special Forces Group. He was commissioned through the Calif. Army National Guard Officer Candidate School program in 1966 as an infantry officer. His military service includes duty as a Special Forces Officer 1966-72, Platoon Leader and Company Commander, 75th Infantry Ranger (Airborne), 9th Infantry Division, with duty in the Republic of Vietnam in 1969.

From 1972-78, Mr Zapanta served in the 63rd and 97th ARCOM, USAR. In 1978-87, he served in the 40th Infantry Division (M), Calif. National Guard as Battalion Commander, 3/160th Infantry Battalion, 40th Infantry Division. His speech was awe inspiring and served to update the delegates of the Association on the current issues of concern.

The evening entertainment was once again outstanding. Songwriters Roxie Dean, Mike Reid, and Tim Nichols wowed the crowd with great songs and stories. Roxie has the songs "Why They Call It Falling" performed by Lee Ann Womack and "When I Think About Angels" by Jamie O'Neal to her credit. Tim wrote "I'll Think Of A Reason Later" which was sang by Lee Ann Womack and "(This Ain't) No Thinkin' Thing" by Trace Adkins.

Reid, a true "Renaissance Man" played pro football for the Cincinnati Bengals was a wrestling champion, two time All-American football player and All-Pro defensive lineman. He has written songs for Bonnie Raitt, Wynonna Judd, Barbara Mandrell, Reba McEntire, Bette Midler, Joe Cocker, Willie Nelson and Ronnie Milsap. He has also won several Grammy Awards. He has also written the opera, "Different Fields". His songs include: "I Can't Make You Love Me" by Bonnie Raitt, "Stranger In My House" by Ronnie Milsap, "Born To Be Blue"

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NGAT Photos in next issue

“NAGT Conference” continued from page 3

by the Judds and “He Talks To Me” by Lorrie Morgan. It was truly breathtaking to see and hear these remarkably talented people.

Once again the conference was a great mixture of business and fun and was a total success. The tireless efforts of Col. (ret) Don Deering account for the continually improving conference and the great things that the association does for the National Guard.

Conferences like this as well as the real issues the association takes on is dependent upon the membership. It is very important that each officer be a member of NGAT and each enlisted person be a member of ENGAT. There is power in numbers and issues that further the National Guard’s interest are easier to sell to our political leaders if there are large numbers represented. These two great organizations are your professional associations and work hard for you.

278th Knows Speed Means Survivability on the Battlefield

*By: Pfc. Michael Cross
133rd MPAD*

Ten seconds is all that is allowed for these Tennessee Army National Guard soldiers to complete their vital mission.

Soldiers of the 278th ACR ADA in Clarksville, TN keep this standard and compete with each other to see who is the best.

At the first signal that an aircraft is within six-kilometers of their area of operation the stinger teams must exit their M2-A2 Bradley Stinger Fighting Vehicles (BSFV), interrogate the aircraft and then make the decision whether or not to engage. And this all happens in less than ten seconds.

Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Jesse, Readiness NCO and Staff Sgt. John Krise, Training NCO for the unit explains the vital role in combat their soldiers undertake.

First, a scout sends warning and air tracks to the stinger team. Then, the stinger gunner exits the BSFV, spots the aircraft in question, and aims the stinger at it. He then sends a signal via the stinger to the aircraft; this is referred to as “interrogating”. If the aircraft being interrogated doesn’t send back the proper signal the decision is made to fire on the craft.

While the stinger team is fulfilling their role, it is the mission of the Bradley team, with all their firepower, to protect the stinger team from any ground forces that may be present. To keep up their high standards, training is ongoing for the 278th.

Currently the ten stinger teams assigned to the unit are going through fierce competition to see who will go to Ft. Bliss, TX to live fire five stinger missiles in August. The five missiles available will go to the five best of the ten teams.

Competition to determine who gets this opportunity will be which team has the highest PT scores and weapons qualifications. Who performs the best in land navigation, general job knowledge, and visual aircraft recognition. Finally, each team will go through a simulator, which counts hits versus misses and whether or not friendly aircraft were mistakenly fired on. Immediate disqualification for a stinger team to participate in the live fire will be fratricide.

On the Bradley side, training standards are laid out differently but are in no way easier. The Bradley teams work off of training tables. These tables range from one to seven. At “Table Seven” the unit is at its most efficient. This is where the BSFV is moving while simultaneously shooting at moving targets.

During the May drill the Bradley teams will be going through a “Table Two” live fire range at Ft. Campbell. This is where the BSFV is stationary and is firing at stationary targets.

Within a year the units Bradley teams will have passed the “Table Seven” firing range, stated Jesse. Considering the National Guard only meets one weekend a month this is a noteworthy accomplishment.

The crew of a BSFV includes the Commander, Gunner and Driver. The Stinger Team includes a Chief and a Stinger Gunner.

“The Bradley has been modified for the stinger teams,” Krise said. The modification is simple, instead of having four seats in the rear of the vehicle the BSFV has had the two seats on its right side removed and in their place is the storage for six stinger missiles.

The weaponry of the BSFV includes a 25-millimeter, gun which fires high explosive and armor piercing rounds, a 7.62-millimeter machine gun, and six stinger missiles.

So far the unit has not received deployment orders but according to Krise, “Our guys have trained for it.”

1st Colonel of the Regiment Dies in Knoxville

Col. Russell A. Newman, the first commander of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment in Knoxville, died Saturday morning March 29th in Knoxville.

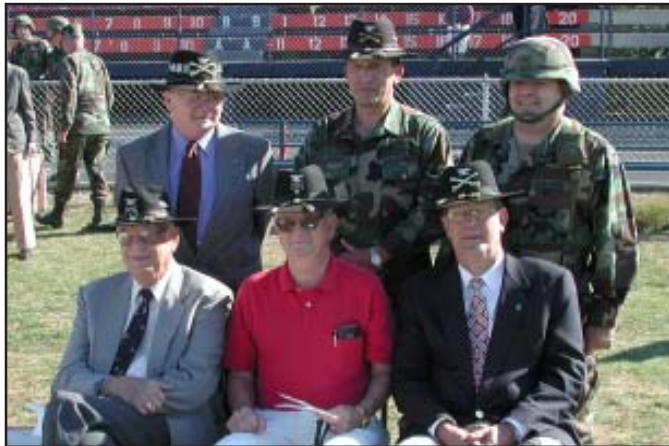


Photo by SFC Randy Harris

Colonel Russ Newman (left, front) is pictured with the first six commanders of the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment during Change of Command ceremonies in 2001. Shown with Col. Newman are (from left front) Col. Virgil Isham, Col. Jerry Ingram, (back) Col. Matt McKnight, Col. Stan Jacobs, and Col. Butch Price.

He was 73. Born Dec. 12, 1929, in Knoxville, Col. Newman graduated in 1953 from the University of Tennessee with a degree in business administration.

An ROTC student, he was commissioned a second lieutenant of infantry in the U. S. Army and later served as an instructor at Tennessee Military Academy.

During his 32 years of military service, his awards included The Legion of Merit, the Army Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal and the National Defense Service Medal.

Upon retiring from the military in June 1985, Col. Newman joined the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, as the first director of TEMA's East Region in March 1986. He retired from his post with TEMA in March 1999.

Col. Newman was a past president of the National Guard Association of Tennessee and served numerous public service organizations in East Tennessee.

He is survived by his son, Charley Newman, and his daughter, Anne Rita Ditmore.

The 278th paid full honors to this true Tennessee Volunteer at the National Guard Armory on Sutherland Avenue.



DOD Tests Space-Available Travel Privileges for Dependents within CONUS

The Assistant Deputy under Secretary of Defense (Transportation Policy) has approved a one-year test to evaluate the expansion of space-available privileges for dependents traveling within the Continental United States (CONUS). The test will allow dependents of active duty and retired Uniformed Services members to travel within the CONUS when accompanied by their sponsors. The test is scheduled to begin 1 April 2003 and will end 1 April 2004.

Dependents will assume the same category of travel as their sponsor. Space-available sign up for this program will be effective 1 April 2003. Retired members may sign up 60 days in advance but no earlier than 1 April 2003.

Active duty Uniformed Services members must be in a leave or pass status to register for space-available travel, remain in a leave or pass status while awaiting travel, and be in a leave or pass status the entire period of travel.

For additional information concerning space-available travel and sign-up procedures please review the Air Mobility Command public web site at <http://amcpublic.scott.af.mil/Spacea/spacea.htm> or contact the servicing DOD air terminal of interest.

Tornadoes Rip Through Tennessee, Damage Jackson Armory

NGB News Story by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, May 9, 2003) National Guard troops answered the call to help civil authorities deal with the devastation of violent tornadoes that hammered the Midwest and flooding in Alabama during early May.

Nearly 200 Army Guard soldiers were on duty in Missouri, Kansas and Tennessee by May 6 after a massive tornado system tore through those states May 4. Six more served in Alabama, according to reports from the Army National Guard's Readiness Center in Arlington, VA.

Missouri fielded the largest force of 173 citizen soldiers after the severe weather system killed 18 people in that state and at least 40 in all, according to newspaper accounts.



Structural damage to the Jackson Armory, headquarters for the 194th Engineer Brigade, occurred during recent tornadoes that ripped through Tennessee.

One of the victims was Wanda Sue Handley, 46, the wife of Missouri Army Guard Spc. William Handley. She was killed in her home in Monett, Mo., Guard officials reported. Spc. Handley is a member of the 203rd Engineer Battalion that is on active duty at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., after being mobilized in March.

Handley was talking with his wife on his cellular phone, the Associated Press reported. "She told him 'I see it,' and then the phone went dead," said Company C 1st Sgt. Randy Mackey. "He was in shock."

Handley received immediate approval to return to his home.

The Missouri tornadoes badly damaged Guard armories in Pierce City and DeSoto.

President George W. Bush issued federal disaster declarations for 39 counties in Missouri and seven counties in Kansas, according to Guard and press reports.

Guard soldiers from the 110th Engineer Battalion in Kansas City, Company A 735th Main Support Battalion in Nevada, Mo., and Company C, 935th Division Aviation Support Battalion in Aurora and Springfield were sent to badly damaged Pierce City, Gladstone and Stockton.

Sgt. 1st Class Ron Holbrook reported that Guard troops initially set up generators to provide power for water pumps and about 70 then helped police patrol streets in hard hit Pierce City, an historic railroad town in Missouri's southwest corner.

Guard soldiers delivered four large generators to Pierce City and seven to Stockton to help generate electricity for emergency needs, said 2nd Lt. Jamie Melchert.

About 125 of the 203rd's soldiers were allowed to leave Fort Leonard Wood to help their families and communities recover from the damage. They were expected to return to the fort on Thursday to await their deployment to Iraq within the next two weeks.

Several of the 203rd's soldiers had seen nature's wrath while serving in Honduras in 1999 to help that country recover from Hurricane Mitch, the Associated Press also reported.



Damage to the roof of the Jackson Armory, headquarters for the 194th Engineer Brigade, occurred during recent tornadoes that ripped through Tennessee.

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278th Named “Hometown Heroes” by Challenger Division

Photo and Story By: Cpl. Waine D. Haley

The Challenger Division of Little League Baseball honored troops from the 278th ACR as hometown heroes Monday, April 21, 2003 at the North Shores Baseball fields in Knoxville, Tenn.

The organization wanted to show their thanks for the exceptional work that is done to make the country, states and neighborhoods a great place to live.

The Challenger Division is a special branch of Little League Baseball. The program is for mentally and physically disabled youth to enjoy the full benefits of Little League participation in an athletic environment structured to their abilities.

The troops that volunteered felt truly honored for the opportunity to represent the 278th ACR in such a rewarding event. The participation of the volunteering troops was in numerous events, ranging from talking to the ballplayers, to helping coach the bases. The soldiers were also able to escort the children's tours of the regiment's "Hummers" that were driven to the sight in support of the event.

The event was a heartfelt thank you to all soldiers that serve this great nation.



Spc. Rebecca Lynn Estep helped coach first base at the Opening Games of the Challenger Division of Little League Baseball.

Pictures from around...



Photo by SFC Randy D. Harris

MG Gus Hargett and CSM Roy Williams are pictured with members of the 105th Personnel Services Bn and the 30th Finance Bn at Ft. Rucker, AL.



Photo by SFC Randy D. Harris

MG Gus Hargett and LTC Bruce Griffith are pictured with the 105th Personnel Services Bn "Old Timers" during a recent visit to Ft. Rucker, AL.

Blum takes helm of National Guard Bureau

by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau



WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 16, 2003) — The Army National Guard two-star general who helped form the United States Northern Command, the new military organization responsible for homeland security, has become the 25th chief of the National Guard Bureau.

H. Steven Blum will be promoted to lieutenant general and pinned with his third star as chief of the 466,000 members of the Army and Air National Guard now that the U.S. Senate has confirmed his Jan. 6 nomination by President George Bush. The Senate confirmed the four-year appointment on April 11.

Blum, 56, succeeds Lt. Gen. Russell Davis who retired as the Guard Bureau's chief in August. Maj. Gen. Raymond Rees has been acting chief since then.

Nearly 160,000 members of the Army and Air Guard, almost 35 percent of the total force, are on active duty or belong to units that have been identified for mobilization for the war against terrorism as Blum becomes the Guard Bureau's chief. Guard forces are involved in the largest mobilization of reserve-component troops since World War II.

The chief is the senior uniformed National Guard officer responsible for formulating, developing and coordinating all policies, programs and plans affecting Army and Air National Guard personnel. The general serves as the principal adviser to the secretary and chief of staff of the Army and the secretary and chief of staff of the Air Force on all National Guard issues. As NGB chief, he serves as the Army's and Air Force's official channel of communication with the governors and adjutants general.

Blum has been chief of staff for the commander of the Northern Command and the North American Aerospace Command at Peterson Air Force Base in Colorado since August.

The Maryland Army Guard general coordinated the activities of all members of the five uniformed services, including the reserve components, assigned to the Northern Command. NORTHCOM was officially activated in Colorado Springs in October. It was the first military command formed solely to defend the continental United States since the Continental Army, commanded by General George Washington, was organized in 1775.

"There is no more important mission than the defense of this nation and the homeland," said Blum during an interview in September. "We cannot fail the American people. They have high expectations of us. We are defending our families, our friends, our way of life."

Now he will oversee the National Guard's overall commitment to that cause as well as to the war on terrorism overseas, including the war with Iraq. He will also be concerned with how well the Guard performs its traditional jobs of training for war and supporting civil authorities during natural disasters, such as floods and wildfires, and civil disturbances.

Blum paid his dues on the foreign front as commanding general of the Multinational Division North in Bosnia Herzegovina from September 2001 to April 2002. He commanded troops from other countries, including Russia and Turkey, during that time.

Blum assumed command in August 1999 of the Virginia Army Guard's 29th Infantry Division that provided the command and control element for that peacekeeping rotation in Bosnia. He commanded the 29th until last August when he was assigned to the Northern Command in Colorado.

The late historian Stephen Ambrose, who died in October, gave Blum high marks as a soldier and as a

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commander in his final book, “To America.”

“At 55, he has had made 1,500 air drops. He has had open-heart surgery. He talks so well and thinks so swiftly and knows so much that he reminds me of Eisenhower in 1945, when Ike was fifty-five years old,” wrote Ambrose after meeting Blum while visiting Bosnia with a group of World War II veterans during Thanksgiving 2001.

“We flew in helicopters together, we attended ceremonies, briefings, meals with the troops,” Ambrose continued. “[Blum] was always fully concentrated. He is outstanding in his job as military commander and diplomat, as good as Ike was in Germany after World War II, although on a much smaller scale.”

Blum is a native of Maryland and earned his bachelor’s degree in history from the University of Baltimore in 1968. He received a master’s degree in social science in 1973 from Morgan State College in Baltimore, and he attended the Army War College in 1989.

He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in August 1971 when he graduated with honors from the Maryland Army Guard’s Officers Candidate School. He has been a Special Forces officer throughout his career, and has commanded at every level since taking charge of a detachment in the Maryland Army Guard’s 20th Special Forces in November 1977.

Blum received his first star when he was promoted to brigadier general in August 1996, and he was promoted to major general in February 2000.

Senate Approves Guard and Reserve Health Care Amendment

Washington, DC - The Senate, by a vote of 85 to 10, agreed to an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) allowing Guardsmen & Reservists to buy into the Tricare health care program. The entire bill is expected to be voted on later this week.

The NGAUS would like to thank the efforts of all the senators who voted for this important legislation, especially Senators Clinton, DeWine, Daschle, Graham and Leahy who have been at the forefront of this issue.

The House of Representatives will be considering their version of the NDAA starting tomorrow. Watch for upcoming NGAUS alerts on how you can help ensure a similar provision is included in the House bill.

Additional coverage of the vote and full details of the amendment is available on the NGAUS Web site.

“Tornadoes” continued from page 5

“That was a cakewalk compared to what happened here,” said Staff Sgt. Ed Hatfield. “This is unbelievable.”

Staff Sgt. Ray Stockton said “it looks like one of those old movies with the Germans with all of the destruction.”

“Our equipment is on a boat [going overseas] right now, so we’re using our hands,” Mackey said. “But we’ll get it done.”

Guard aviation personnel also helped in the recovery effort, and Missouri Guard soldiers served in Gladstone and Battlefield City, said Holbrook, a Missouri Guard spokesman.

Guard troops blocked off a subdivision of Battlefield City, outside Springfield, from residents and onlookers as heavy equipment cleared debris, USA Today reported.

One civilian man who was seeking shelter in the Pierce City armory, that was built in 1941, was killed when a tornado tore down a wall and caused some of the storm system’s worst devastation in that community.

The armory was home to Detachment 1, C Company of the 203rd.

No injuries were reported at the DeSoto armory.

Fifteen Guard troops remained on duty in Kansas May 8, but nine who had served in Tennessee and the six in Alabama completed their missions on May 7, said a Readiness Center spokesman in Virginia.

Blurred Vision

*The day my colors ran together
The white, the blue, the red
I didn't know quite what to think
I couldn't clear my head.*

*How could this ever happen
To the ole red, white and blue?
I thought "I pledge allegiance" meant
We would all be true.*

*White said "It's not my fault"
No I'm not the one to blame.
"The others got together
And barred the mention of his name"*

*Blue said "I ain't lying,
I'm not in this alone.
You two sentenced us to hell
When you left your faith at home"*

*Red was quite beside herself
While the other's made a fuss
"Our situation's hopeless
If we lose each other's trust".*

*Then a thread of courage spoke up
And said "I think I've heard enough.
You three think that you're so bad
But you're really not that tough*

*Without me you're just ribbon
And a little swath of blue
But when I tie you all together
We represent the true.*

*Jackie R. Duncan
February 2003*

Major Jackie R. Duncan is the Data Processing Manager for the Tennessee Army National Guard, Nashville.

Pictures from around...



MG Gus Hargett talks with pilots and medics of the 146th Medical Company at Ft. Benning, GA.



More on the 146th Medical Company in the next issue of the VolstateGuard.



Tennessee Military Department personnel join Gov. Phil Bredesen and House Speaker Jimmy Naifeh during the recent "Military Women on the Hill Day".

Brumblay Named Top NCO for Reserve Components Bands

By Spec. Lee Elder
Tennessee Army National Guard

A Tennessee Army National Guard citizen-soldier is the top junior noncommissioned officer for the Reserve Component's U.S. Army bands.

Sgt. Normand S. Brumblay was chosen from among members of 105 Army bands worldwide. He is a saxophonist with the Tennessee Guard's 129th Army Band and works as a facilities engineer for the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System.

"I am truly honored," Brumblay said. "It's humbling to be singled out from so many outstanding Army musicians worldwide."

According to his commander, Capt. Thad Perry, non-musical criteria such as appearance, physical fitness and leadership abilities also contributed to Brumblay's award selection. Perry said that one project



Photo by SFC Randy Harris

Sgt. Normand S. Brumblay is congratulated by MG Gus Hargett and State CSM Roy Williams on being chosen as the U.S. Army Reserve Bands NCO of the Year.

in particular helped Brumblay stand out from the crowd.

"I went to Sgt. Brumblay a few months ago and challenged him to help us start a rock combo," Perry recalled. "He took the project and ran with it.

"In two months, he had the combo up and running."

Perry acknowledged that it was a challenging task for one of his younger noncommissioned officers.

"I knew he could put together a good rock band," Perry said.

Last week, the combo performed for mobilized Tennessee Guard soldiers at Fort Rucker, Ala.

To the applause of the crowd, the combo breezed through renditions ranging from Lynyrd Skynyrd's "Sweet Home Alabama" to Nirvana's "Smells Like School Spirit".

Both Perry and Brumblay view the new combo as an opportunity for the band to remain viable in today's ever-changing music field, while better serving the needs of the Tennessee Army National Guard as a whole.

Brumblay has been a member of the Guard's band since 1991, after spending four years with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). He served in the first Persian Gulf War with the Screaming Eagles.

A Nashville native, Brumblay is a 1987 graduate of Hudson (Fla.) High School, and graduated from the University of Tennessee with a civil engineering degree. He was employed by DBS & Associates Engineering before taking his current position. Among his Clarksville-area projects there included work on the Mall bypass (Ted Crozier Sr. Boulevard) and the widening of State Route 76 (Dover Road).

Brumblay and his wife, Robyn, a 6th-grade teacher at Rossvie Middle School, have a 2-year-old son, Garrison Hunter Brumblay.

For his part, Brumblay took the honor in stride.

"I just try to always do my best," Brumblay said. "It's kind of hard to be proud, especially right now, with so many of our country's fighting men and women deployed. I know what they are going through, and emotionally I am far more concerned about and proud of them right now than I am about this award."

Perry applauded the award.

"Not too many soldiers achieve this kind of award," Perry said. "Sgt. Brumblay is an outstanding NCO."

The 129th Army Band is one of the Tennessee Army National Guard's oldest units. Besides performing music for Guard functions throughout Tennessee, the United States, and the world, the 129th has the distinction of performing for the 1993 presidential inauguration, a recent command performance with the West Point Army Band, and have performed regularly at Tennessee gubernatorial inaugural events.

Country star sings tribute to troops

by Staff Sgt. Marcia Triggs

WASHINGTON (Army News Service, April 16, 2003) Leaving political correctness on the shelf, Darryl Worley dedicated his hit "A Good Day to Run" to Saddam Hussein during an hour long concert in the Pentagon courtyard April 16.

Performing for troops and outwardly showing his appreciation for the military is Worley's way of doing what he can while America is at war, he said. His concert was televised live to troops overseas on the American Forces Network.

"There's only so much we can do to support our nation at this time," Worley said, "and if we did what we can all day, everyday, it would still pale in comparison to what the troops do."

Worley, 38, said he's always been a strong advocate for U.S. service members, but his patriotism has become more evident since the release of his single, "Have you Forgotten."

The song has been No. 1 on Billboard's country single list for three weeks, and has been labeled as a pro war song. The song, which was written after Worley returned from visiting troops in Southwest Asia, was not meant to be a pro war song, Worley said.

"It's a pro American song, and definitely a pro military song," Worley told the Pentagon crowd and those watching overseas. "It was written to honor those troops who take care of our country and keep it free."

Next winter, Worley said he wants to visit Baghdad and perform for the troops who ran out the dictators and are helping to improve the lives of the Iraqi people.

"War isn't just about killing the enemy," Worley said. "It's also about helping those who can't help themselves."

Worley's guitar player is often times in the background except for when he steps to the mike for his solo moments, but he also shares Worley's love for troops. Jeff Jared, better known as Soir, also visited the troops on the USO tour to the U.S. Central Command area just before Christmas.

"I feel like I'm part of the Army family," Soir said. "I take this war personal because I feel like my friends are over there fighting."

A Tennessee native, Worley said he comes from a family of military people, which is why he understands that sometimes America has to fight and go to war. His respect for those who make sacrifices for their country

is inspiring and that has been evident in several of his songs.

"POW 369" was another song Worley sang from his album. It talks about how he got upset with a slow driver until he read the driver's car plates POW 369. "I should salute you from this heart of mine," he sang. "And thank you for placing your life on the line."

Celebrities who pay homage to soldiers are tremendously important, said an Air Force officer who knows Worley from High school.

"Everyone likes to be appreciated, and military service can sometimes be a thankless job," said Maj. Dwayne Hummel, with the Office of the Program Manager Saudi Arabian National Guard.

"To have someone of his stature support what we're doing is very refreshing and satisfying."

Worley has earned his celebrity status, but his good ol' boy attitude draws soldiers to him, and he said he's very comfortable in the mix of soldiers.

Very seldom seen out of his black boots and blue jeans, Worley sported an Army of One T shirt to promote the branch that has helped to skyrocket his career.

"After returning from Afghanistan, my life has gotten extremely busy, and my career is on another level," Worley said. "It's really cool when something like this happens when you're trying to do something good. We believe that what we're doing is good bringing honor and respect to the men and women who make this country what it is."

Worley has also found himself on the receiving end of recognition. He received a 3D image of the Pentagon from Secretary of the Army Thomas E. White April 9, and on the same day the USO presented him with the Merit Award. The award is presented each year to an individual possessing outstanding creative talents and dedication to serving others. Past recipients include Elizabeth Taylor, Steven Spielberg, Marvin Hamlisch and Bob Hope.



Sheraton Studio City Salutes All Military Personnel With A Red, White And Blue Summer Package

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Braves Announce 2-for-1 Tickets for All Military Personnel and Their Families

ATLANTA—To honor the military personnel that serve our country, the Braves are offering a ticket discount exclusively for **all United States military and their families**. Every Braves home game, Sunday through Thursday, during the 2003 regular season, UPPER BOX tickets are 2 for the price of 1 (**2 seats for \$12**) by showing any Active Military ID, Reservist's ID, National Guard member's ID, or military dependant's ID at the Turner Field ticket windows on the day of the game based on availability.

PLEASE NOTE: Special ceremonies honoring military personal are planned for games on **Memorial Day, May 26th vs. Cincinnati Reds, 4th of July vs. Texas Rangers, and September 11th vs. Philadelphia Phillies**. More details will be provided closer to game days.

The Braves Military Discounts are in addition to the Braves other 2003 ticket discounts:

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Braves single game tickets are available by calling 1-800-326-4000, at any Ticketmaster box office, at the Turner Field box office, or online at atlantabraves.com.

Group, luxury suite, and season tickets are available by calling 404.577.9100 or visiting atlantabraves.com.

Taps

We in the United States have all heard the haunting song, "Taps." It's the song that gives us that lump in our throats and usually tears in our eyes. But, do you know the story behind the song? If not, I think you will be interested to find out about its humble beginnings.

Reportedly, it all began in 1862 during the Civil War, when Union Army Captain Robert Ellicombe was with his men near Harrison's Landing in Virginia. The Confederate Army was on the other side of the narrow strip of land.



During the night, Captain Ellicombe heard the moans of a soldier who lay severely wounded on the field. Not knowing if it was a Union or Confederate soldier, the Captain decided to risk

his life and bring the stricken man back for medical attention. Crawling on his stomach through the gunfire, the Captain reached the stricken soldier and began pulling him toward his encampment.

When the Captain finally reached his own lines, he discovered it was actually a Confederate soldier, but the soldier was dead. The Captain lit a lantern and suddenly caught his breath and went numb with shock. In the dim light, he saw the face of the soldier. It was his own son. The boy had been studying music in the South when the war broke out. Without telling his father, the boy enlisted in the Confederate Army.

The following morning, the heartbroken father asked permission of his superiors to give his son a full military burial, despite his enemy status. His request was only partially granted. The Captain had asked if he could have a group of Army band

members play a funeral dirge for his son at the funeral. The request was turned down since the soldier was a Confederate.

But, out of respect for the father, they did say they could give him one musician. The Captain chose a bugler. He asked the bugler to play a series of musical notes he had found on a piece of paper in the pocket of the dead youth's uniform. This wish was granted.

The haunting melody, we now know as "Taps", used at military funerals, was born.

The words are:

Day is done ...
Gone the sun ...
From the lakes...
From the hills ...
From the sky
All is well ...
Safely rest ...
God is nigh ...

Fading light ...
Dims the sight ..
And a star ...
Gems the sky ...
Gleaming bright
From afar ...
Drawing nigh ...
Falls the night .

Thanks and praise ...
For our days ...
Neath the sun
Neath the stars ..
Neath the sky.
As we go ...
This we know ...
God is nigh ...

